

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
SAJ-01 DHA-02 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00
ACDA-07 /090 W

-----311506Z 123546 /50

R 311440Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5174
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01798

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, GW
SUBJECT: ZAIRE'S PRESIDENT MOBUTU VISITS FRG

REF: KINSHASA 0432; BRUSSELS 887

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING HIS TALKS IN BONN, MOBUTU
FOCUSED ON THE APPREHENSION FELT IN WESTERN-ORIENTED
AFRICAN STATES OVER THE GROWTH OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN
THE AREA. MOBUTU SUGGESTED THAT THE WEST IDENTIFY ITS
FRIENDS IN AFRICA AND CONCENTRATE ITS SUPPORT ON THEM,
MAKING THEM A "SHINING EXAMPLE" OF THE BENEFITS OF
COOPERATION WITH THE WEST. CONTRARY TO PRESS FORECASTS,
MOBUTU MADE NO STRONG PITCH FOR GREATER FRG BILATERAL
AID TO ZAIRE. ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, MOBUTU TOOK A MODER-
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ATE STAND, SAYING THAT "WHITE AFRICANS" HAVE THE SAME
RIGHTS AS OTHER AFRICANS BUT MUST ABANDON THEIR
POLICIES OF DISCRIMINATION AND APARTHEID. END SUMMARY.

1. ZAIRE'S PRESIDENT MOBUTU, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS
FOREIGN MINISTER AND A RETINUE OF ABOUT 60,
MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO BONN ON JANUARY 26. HE

LUNCHEd WITH PRESIDENT SCHEEL AND HAD PRIVATE TALKS WITH BOTH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER. MOBUTU THEN LEFT BONN TO BEGIN A ONE WEEK PRIVATE VACATION IN SOUTHERN GERMANY.

2. DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE'S DEPARTMENT FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA WEVER BRIEFED US ON THE VISIT. WEVER WAS MOBUTU'S "ESCORT" THROUGHOUT THE VISIT AND WAS PRESENT AT ALL MEETINGS EXCEPT THAT WITH THE CHANCELLOR. HE TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF ALL OF MOBUTU'S DISCUSSIONS WAS THE SAME.

3. ACCORDING TO WEVER, THE FRG WAS EXPECTING MOBUTU TO DO IN BONN WHAT HE DID IN BRUSSELS: CARRY OUT INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS OF BILATERAL ISSUES, ESPECIALLY AID. INSTEAD, MOBUTU STATED FLATLY THAT HE THOUGHT RELATIONS WITH THE FRG WERE EXCELLENT AND THAT HE HOPED "OUR GERMAN FRIENDS WILL CONTINUE THEIR EXCELLENT " ASSISTANCE." IN THIS CONTEXT, MOBUTU REFERRED TO THE ECONOMIC REFORMS HE INITIATED IN DECEMBER WHICH, TOGETHER WITH RESCHEDULING ZAIRE'S DEBTS, SHOULD HELP RESTORE ZAIRE'S FINANCIAL STABILITY.

4. MOBUTU THEN ZEROED IN ON WHAT HE CONSIDERS A FEELING AMONG MANY AFRICAN STATES FRIENDLY TO THE WEST THAT THE WEST IS LETTING THEM DOWN. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID, THE WEST IS PREOCCUPIED WITH OIL AND NOT PAYING ENOUGH ATTENTION TO PRODUCERS OF OTHER EQUALLY NECESSARY RAW MATERIALS. SPEAKING MORE CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECIFICALLY, MOBUTU TOLD HIS CONVERSATION PARTNERS THAT SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS AND INCREASING INFLUENCE IN STATES SUCH AS MOZAMBIQUE, TANZANIA, SOMALIA, UGANDA, ANGOLA, CONGO (B), SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, BENIN, GUINEA, AND GUINEA-BISSAU ARE GIVING PRO-WESTERN AFRICANS A FEELING OF INSECURITY, ISOLATION, AND OF BEING LEFT "HIGH AND DRY." (MOBUTU DID NOT MENTION MALI IN THIS CONTEXT; WEVER BELIEVES THIS WAS OVERSIGHT AND NOT INTENT.)

5. MOBUTU ADVISED WESTERN POWERS TO MAKE UP A LIST OF "SOLID FRIENDS" IN AFRICA AND ANOTHER LIST OF THOSE COUNTRIES "LOST TO THE WEST" (THOSE LISTED ABOVE). THE WEST SHOULD THEN CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS ON STRENGTHENING ITS FRIENDS, MAKING THEM "SHOWCASES" OF WHAT COOPERATION WITH THE WEST CAN MEAN FOR AN UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRY. INSURING THE SECURITY OF THESE "FRIENDS" MUST ALSO BE A PART OF THE PROGRAM, MOBUTU SAID.

6. ACCORDING TO WEVER, THE GERMAN RESPONSE ON ALL LEVELS WAS THAT THE FRG SHARES MOBUTU'S DESIRE FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION AND INTEREST IN COUNTERING SOVIET

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 01798

INTERVENTION IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. FOREIGN MINISTER
GENSCHER REITERATED FRG POLICY AGAINST ARMS SHIPMENTS
TO AFRICA, BUT ADMITTED THAT OTHER WESTERN POWERS COULD
PROBABLY MEET ZAIRE'S REQUIREMENTS.

7. ON THE SUBJECT OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, WEVER SAID
MOBUTU TOOK A VERY MODERATE STANCE. HE REAFFIRMED
ZAIRE'S INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING TRUE DEMOCRACY AND
EXCLUDING FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE.
IN MOBUTU'S VIEW, THE OVER 4 MILLION "WHITE AFRICANS"
IN SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA, AND ZIMBABWE HAVE EVERY RIGHT
TO STAY, AS LONG AS THEY ABANDON THEIR PRACTICES OF

DISCRIMINATION AND APARTHEID. WEVER OBSERVED THAT
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THIS POSITION IS ALMOST IDENTICAL WITH THE FRG'S.

8. COMMENT: MOBUTU'S IDEAS, ACCORDING TO WEVER, CAME
ACROSS AS BEING WELL THOUGHT OUT AND, IN LIGHT OF HIS
RECENT TRAVELS ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, PROBABLY
REPRESENTATIVE OF THOSE HELD BY MANY PRO-
WESTERN, OR AT LEAST NOT PRO-SOVIET, AFRICAN LEADERS.
FOR THIS REASON, MOBUTU'S VIEWS WERE LISTENED TO
ATTENTIVELY AND WITH GREAT INTEREST. (THAT SCHMIDT
DECIDED AT THE LAST MINUTE TO SEE MOBUTU AND THAT THEIR
TALK LASTED ALMOST TWO HOURS WOULD INDICATE THIS TO BE
THE CASE.) ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY ASK FOR
MORE AID FOR ZAIRE, MOBUTU'S RECOMMENDATION OF HIGHER
AID FOR "FRIENDS" OF THE WEST -- OF WHICH ZAIRE MUST BE
CONSIDERED ONE OF THE FOREMOST -- WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE
THAT EFFECT.
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Message Attributes

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